REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-12 will be pending.

§103 Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7, 9, and 11-12

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9, and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pease *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,759,102; hereinafter referred to as "Pease") in view of Nogay *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,993,088; hereinafter referred to as "Nogay"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Background section of the Specification, it was disclosed that there are games "for carrying out ... motor-cycle or car racing" and roll playing games "in which a character [is] moved by a player operation". "Such video game proceeds to the next game stage, as the player clears a game stage, and comes to a close when the player clears the last stage." "In the conventional domestic game apparatus, only the picture or the sound, changing with the game progress, can be enjoyed." *Page 1, lines 10-16 of the Specification.* Thus, it was disclosed that the conventional games do not provide any means to preserve the game status as the game progresses from stage to stage.

The structure of the video game system, apparatus, and method described in claims 1-4 and 6-12 is designed to overcome the above-described shortcomings of the conventional video game apparatus. For example, the system of claim 1 includes a "video game system in which a video game is progressed in accordance with a game software program ... and, if there exist contents to be printed in the course of the progress of the video game, the contents are converted

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into printing data to be printed" (Claim 1; emphasis added). Thus, by converting the progress of the video game embodied in the contents into printing data and outputting the printing data during the course of the video game when there are contents to be printed (*e.g.*, when scores of players are available at a particular stage of the game), the progress or status of the game can be preserved.

It appears that Pease discloses a method and apparatus for downloading information to a peripheral device coupled to a computer, such as a gaming terminal. In particular, Pease discloses a process for using the computer to transfer the information to the peripheral device after receipt from an external device. According to Pease, the gaming terminal may be an electronic slot machine, electronic keno machine, electronic card game machine, and electronic lottery terminals. The peripheral device may be a bill acceptor, a coin acceptor, a card reader, input/output devices, and audio devices. For example, when the peripheral device, such as a bill acceptor, needs to be reprogrammed in response to newly discovered counterfeiting or other cheating schemes, the programming information can be downloaded to that peripheral device through the gaming terminal. This "is less labor-intensive and less costly than previously possible, preferably without requiring individual direct access to each peripheral device which is being reprogrammed." *Pease, column 2, lines 24-27.* Thus, even assuming that the peripheral device includes a printer, the gaming terminal in Pease is only used as a conduit for downloading the programming information to the peripheral device. Furthermore, Pease discloses "it may be necessary to suspend operation of the gaming terminal during downloading from the information source to the gaming terminal, and/or from the gaming terminal to the peripheral." *Pease, column 6, lines 34-37.* Therefore, the programming information of Pease is unrelated to the progress of the game on the gaming terminal itself.

In contrast, in the video game system embodied in the present claims, the status of the video game (*i.e.*, the printing data) downloaded to the peripheral device (*i.e.*, the printer) captures the progress of the game that is being played on the video game system. This status information is not intended for programming or reprogramming of the peripheral device, as is the case in Pease. Furthermore, since the status information is capturing the progress of the game, there is no need to suspend the operation of the video game system during the downloading of the status information.

Since Nogay merely discloses a printer driver, it does not appear that Pease and Nogay, in combination or individually, specifically teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 1-4, 7, 9, and 11-12. In particular, the combination of Pease and Nogay fails to teach or suggest a video game system in which a video game is progressed in accordance with a game software program such that, if there exist contents to be printed in the course of the progress of the video game, the contents are converted into printing data to be printed.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is submitted that claims 1-4, 7, 9, and 11-12 are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious by the teachings of Pease and Nogay. Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 9, and 11-12 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of Claims 6, 8, and 9

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 6, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pease and Nogay, and further in view of Fawcett *et*

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al. (U.S. Patent 5,678,002; hereinafter referred to as "Fawcett"). This rejection is respectfully

traversed.

Since claims 6, 8, and 10 depend from claims 1, 2, and 3, respectively, the above

discussion with respect to claims 1-4 also applies here. Furthermore, since it is stated that

Fawcett discloses the ability to provide patches and/or upgrades to features of a client's

computer, the combination of Pease, Nogay, and Fawcett also fails to teach or suggest a video

game system in which a video game is progressed in accordance with a game software program

such that, if there exist contents to be printed in the course of the progress of the video game, the

contents are converted into printing data to be printed.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is submitted that claims 6, 8, and 10 are not

anticipated by nor rendered obvious by the teachings of Pease, Nogay, and Fawcett.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 6, 8, and 10 based upon 35

U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully

requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application

with claims 1-4 and 6-12 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this

application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over

the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35

U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of

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patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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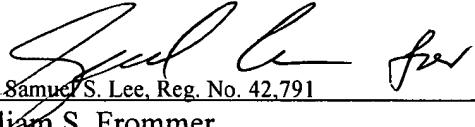
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